

Message Text

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53-40

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /031 W

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O 281315Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9478

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1639

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: CAPTAIN PERALTA

REF: STATE 085867

1. UNABLE REACH FREITAS CRUZ ALL DAY APRIL 27 BUT
FINALLY GOT HIM ON PHONE THIS MORNING AND MENTIONED
SUBJECT. HE SAID HE HAD READ SAME NEWSPAPER
REPORT I HAD AND MENTIONED MATTER TO SECRETARY
GENREAL CALVET DE MAGALHAES WHO, AFTER RECEIVING
REPORT THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED IN THEMIDO-
STABLER MEETING APRIL 27, HAD TAKEN MATTER UP WITH
A MEMBER OF JUNTA. FREITAS CRUZ WAS UNDER
IMPRESSION THAT MATTER WAS "IN HAND" BUT HAD NO
DETAILS.

2. I SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED CALVET AT HOME
WHO TOLD ME THAT (UNIDENTIFIED) JUNTA MEMBER HE HAD
TALKED TO WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT, ALTHOUGH
PERALTA HAD INDEED BEEN RELEASED FROM CAXIAS PRISON,
HE WAS IN MILITARY CUSTODY. WHEN I OBSERVED THAT
AIRPORT WAS NOW OPEN AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NOTHING
IRREVERSIBLE HAD TAKEN PLACE, CALVET SAID THAT JUNTA
OF COURSE HAD MANY OTHER MATTERS TO DEAL WITH BUT
THAT HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT PERALTA WAS
STILL IN FACT IN MILITARY CUSTODY SINCE JUNTA MEMBER
HE HAD TALKED TO, DESPITE THE MANY OTHER THINGS ON
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HIS MIND, HAD TAKEN NOTE OF PERALTA MATTER EVEN

BEFORE CALVET'S CONTACT WITH HIM. WHEN I SUGGESTED
ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT IF ONE OF FIRST GESTURES
JUNTA MADE TOWARDS U.S. WERE TO EFFECT EXCHANGE OF
LUNT FOR PERALTA THIS WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT
IN WASHINGTON, CALVET SAID HE HAD MADE SAME POINT
WITH JUNTA MEMBER WHO INDICATED HIS FULL APPRECIATION
OF THE POINT. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT ME IF HE
LEARNED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CASE.

3. COMMENT: SHORT OF CONTACTING DIRECTLY ONE OF
THE TWO JUNTA MEMBERS I KNOW PERSONALLY (COSTA
GOMES AND GALVAO DE MELO), THIS IS ABOUT THE BEST
WE CAN DO AT THE MOMENT.
POST

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30 JUN 2005

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